

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01

SAJ-01 /090 W

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R 091719Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5718

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 00678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CB, UN, VS

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF SVN EXILE FIGURE

REF: PARIS 29085

1. SVN EXILE FIGURE HO THONG MINH TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD ATTENDED THE DECEMBER 1 MEETING WHICH DRV POLITBURO MEMBER LE DUC THO HAD HELD WITH THE "THIRD FORCE" DURING HIS VISIT TO FRANCE (REFTEL). THO SAID THAT HE WAS MOST STRUCK BY THO'S TELLING THE "THIRD FORCE" LEADERS IN FRONT OF THE PRG REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE DRV SUPPORTS THE "THIRD FORCE" ELEMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND WISHES CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ITS LEADERS HERE THROUGH THE DRV EMBASSY. MINH COMMENTED THAT PREVIOUSLY THE DRV HAD RECOGNIZED THE EXISTENCE OF THE "THIRD FORCE", BUT HAD ALWAYS PUBLICLY REFERRED THEM TO THE PRG FOR REGULAR CONTACTS.

2. MINH SAID THO EMPHASIZED DRV SUPPORT FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENTS, OF WHICH IT WAS THE AUTHOR. DRV THEREFORE WISHED THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL, RELEASE OF PRISONERS, CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES, IN SHORT, THE PRG SIX POINTS.

3. ALSO NOTED BY BOLLE (REFTEL), THO EMPHASIZED THAT REUNIFICATION WOULD NOT COME ABOUT IN HIS LIFETIME, BUT IN THE LIFETIME OF HIS SON.

4. AS FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SVN, MINH AND HIS FELLOW EXILES WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT INCREASE IN VIOLENCE. SOME OF HIS YOUNGER COLLEAGUES RECENTLY ASKED LE DINH NHAN, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE DRV EMBASSY, WHETHER THE CURRENT ATTACKS IN SOUTH VIETNAM SIGNALLED A GENERAL OFFENSIVE. NHAN REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE A GENERAL OFFENSIVE. THE ATTACKS WERE DESIGNED TO WEAKEN THE CURRENT GVN POLITICALLY, HOPEFULLY TO FORCE THE DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT THIEU. NHAN SAID ALSO THAT BY LAUNCHING THE ATTACKS ON THE EVE OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS, THE COMMUNISTS WERE CALLING ATTENTION TO THEIR VIEW THAT THEY CONSIDERED THAT THE GVN HAD NOT MOVED TOWARD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AS THE DRV HAD CONCEIVED OF THEM.

4. COMMENT: MINH WAS AWARE OF THE ONE-SIDED, DISTORTED DRV PRESENTATION, BUT AS USUAL WAS AT LEAST EQUALLY UPSET BY WHAT HE CONSIDERED PRESIDENT THIEU'S POLITICAL INTRANSIGENCE, WHICH, HE THOUGHT, PROVOKED THE DRV/PRG ATTACKS. EMBOFF GAVE U.S. VIEWS TO WHICH MINH LISTENED WITH THE USUAL DEAF EAR.

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